



Settling the West

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Concerns about the West

- Large parts of the west were sparsely populated.
- The government was concerned the Americans would move into Canadian territory.
- To stop American expansion, Prime Minister John A Macdonald built the Pacific Railway across Canada so people could move west. Problem- very few people went west- only 16,835 immigrants went to west.
- In 1896 Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier had to come up with a better solution.
- He appointed Clifford Sifton Minister of the Interior to fill the West with immigrants
- Sifton offered free land to people who would move west. Many people came from Europe. By the end of 1905 132,252 immigrants came. By 1913, 400,870 immigrants came to the Canadian West.

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Kinds of Selers Wanted

- Sifton was looking for settlers with agricultural experience.
- Immigrants had to be strong and healthy. They had to break new soil, build homes, and make through the winter.
- 131,253 immigrants came from Europe.



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Unwanted Immigrants



- Not all immigrants to Canada were welcomed.
- Chinese, Japanese, and East Indians came to Canada to work the mines, lumber camps, and build the railroad.
- These immigrants were needed yet they were not wanted. They were forced to pay a " Head Tax" (\$500) to enter the country.

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Canada Before WWI

By Morgan

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Polically

- Canada was a independent country but England was Canada's voice on the world stage - Canada was the teenager (semi-independent and England was the mommy)
- For most of Canada's history in the 1800's, Canada's government was the Conservative party under John A. Macdonald
- In 1896 Sir Wilfred Laurier became the first Canadian prime minister of the 20th century (the Liberals would dominate the government for 80 of the 100 years of the last century)

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The Boer War

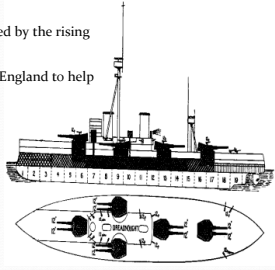


- In 1899 Britain faced a guerilla movement in their colony of South Africa from the Dutch Boer settlers (who happened to be sitting on land with a lot of gold)
- English Canadians wanted to send troops to fight for the British empire
- French Canadians were opposed to this and sympathized with the Boers
- Laurier created a compromise in which only volunteers were sent to fight (6,000 went) in Canada's first world conflict

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Naval Race

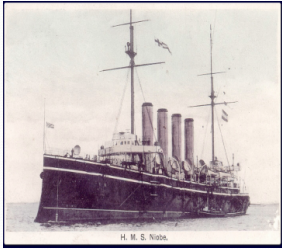
- Britain's empire naval supremacy was being challenged by the rising strength of the new German navy
- English Canadians wanted Canada to send money to England to help England build huge dreadnoughts "battleships"



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Naval race (cont'd)

- Germany and Britain were racing to see who could build the most of these ships
- French Canadians saw no need to send Canadian money to help England with its "European issues"
- Laurier created a compromise in which Canada created its own navy with two old British ships the Niobe and the Rainbow
- The Conservative leader Robert Borden criticized this decision and called it a "tin pot navy"



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Economy



- Canada economy was largely based on raw material and natural resources (wheat, wood for American newspapers, etc.)
- England used to be Canada's largest trading partner
- America was quickly overtaking England as Canada's largest trading partner

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Naonal Policy

- The Conservative government in the 1800's helped protect Canada's small economy for America through the use of tariffs
- Tariffs (are money exporters have to pay to bring their goods into a country)
- This made Canadians buy the cheaper Canadian products



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Reciprocity

I'll scratch your back, if you'll scratch mine.



In 1911 the U.S. offered a free-trade agreement (reciprocity - you give me something and I will give you something) to Canada

This would mean lower tariffs

This would benefit farmers in the west and other natural resource based industries

Big Companies that built products (mainly in Ontario) did not like this idea of lower tariffs

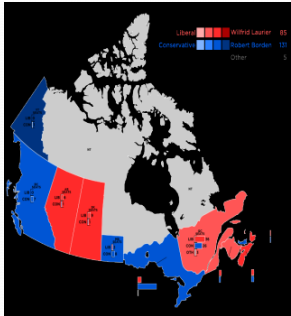
There was an election.

The Conservatives under Robert Borden said the Liberals were selling Canada out to the Americans and betraying our loyalty to England

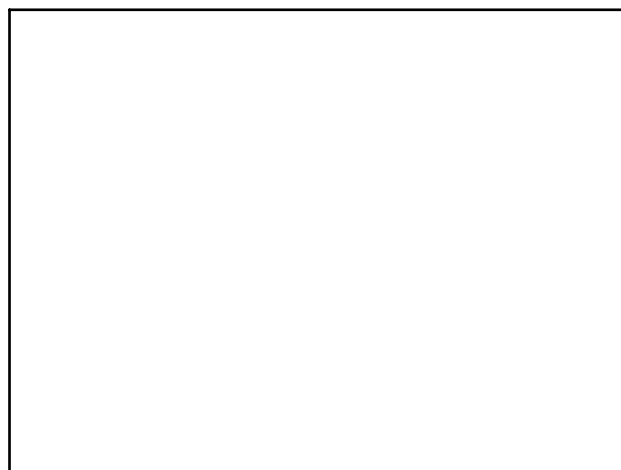
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Reciprocity (cont'd)

- The Liberals lost the election and Laurier was defeated in 1911
- However there was a split in the voting. English regions (Ontario, etc.) mainly voted Conservative and French regions (Quebec) mainly voted Liberal.
- On the eve of WWI Canada was a divided nation



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